To: Tristan Baurick Personal Phone/Ex. 6
From: Forrest, Sabrina
Sent: Thur 4/11/2013 1:58:22 PM
Subject: RE: Non-NPL site list

Hi Tristan, You can find out more about the definitions of non-NPL and NPL status values by searching the SPIM, Superfund Program Implementation Manual. You may go ahead and remove the RO sites, they are removal only sites, not planned to be going through the remedial process for long-term cleanup. That may reduce the list of sites. I don't work in removal, so if you are interested in those sites, then we need to find you another contact.

Archived sites are those that we are done with, but if new information comes to light, then they can be unarchived and reassessed. For the non-NPL sites, it looks like you have looked at all actions, so some of these may only be at the PA stage and we don't know if SI or HRS will be needed yet.

More later, I need to prepare for several meetings today.

Regards,

Sabrina

From: Tristan Baurick [mailto: Personal Phone/Ex. 6
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 5:36 PM
To: Forrest, Sabrina
Subject: Non-NPL site list

Hi Sabrina,

Thanks for talking with me on the phone yesterday, and for your patience as I try and sort out the complexities of the non-NPL site list.

My project for I-News is to compile a list of polluted sites that are candidates for the Superfund program.

It appears from the CERCLIS public access database that there are 221 Superfund candidate sites (Excel list attached).

My colleague, Burt Hubbard, did a similar project in 1998 for the Rocky Mountain News. He found that there were just 25 candidate sites. Going from 25 to 221 is a vast leap, so I want to make sure I've got the correct information.

I'm copying Burt's story below so you can get an idea of what I'm after and what I'm trying to update.

As I mentioned to you yesterday, I've been working to unravel the meanings of the more than 50 "Non-NPL Status Values and Codes" in the hopes of sorting out what sites are and are not candidates for the Superfund program. But, unless I'm mistaken, all the 221 sites on the CERCLIS list are candidate sites. Please let me know if I'm misunderstanding this.

As for the my FOIA on the hazard rankings, I'd like to modify my request. I'd like a list and ranking for all non-NPL sites with scores of 28.5 or higher.

So far, I can say that Upper Cement Creek and Colorado Smelter are two sites with scores of 28.5, correct? Please let me know if there are any others.

Thanks for your help on this,

Tristan

SUPERFUND MAY TACKLE SUPERMESS
Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)
Byline: Burt Hubbard Rocky Mountain News Staff Writer

Up to 25 polluted sites in Colorado are candidates for the federal Superfund cleanup program. But federal and state environmental agencies are trying to resolve the contamination problems to avoid the time-consuming and costly Superfund process.

``We try to figure out what's the best approach with the overall mission of getting cleanup done as quickly as possible," said Barry Levene, head of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program in Colorado. ``Some may require listing on the national priorities list and going through the whole Superfund process."

The sites, placed on the candidate list in the 1980s and 1990s, range from chemical-contaminated wells and groundwater in the Denver area to acid mine drainage into Western Slope rivers. They include an industrial park south of Rocky Flats that has been the scene of spills, dumping and fires and a plume of groundwater contamination in Arvada that seeped into several residential wells, according to EPA reports.

In two cases, federal agencies may have contributed to the contamination:

* Pesticides once used by a U.S. Forest Service station are suspected of contaminating groundwater used by two Teller County housing subdivisions, according to EPA files.
* The Department of Energy may have exacerbated lead contamination outside Durango when it cleaned up uranium tailings but left the lead waste behind, the reports said.

In other cases, the sites may be marginal or the problem has already been fixed. Such places will be taken off the candidate list, Levene said.

Seventeen sites in Colorado already are on the Superfund list, a time-consuming and costly designation. Taxpayers have paid $4.3 billion to clean up several of the Colorado sites - led by

Rocky Flats and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal - with the final bill expected to exceed $12 billion. Companies and parties responsible for the contamination also pay.
Further investigation will determine whether any of the 25 sites will be given Superfund status. So far, the EPA and Colorado have had success getting companies to clean up some areas.
``I think a lot of the companies recognize they have responsibilities for some of these historic problems, and it's in their interest as well as ours to come forward and deal with it proactively,'' said Howard Roitman, head of the state's hazardous-waste division.
There are several examples:
* Centerline Circuits is cleaning its former plant site in north Boulder, Levene said. Solvents and acids from its circuit board manufacturing seeped into private water wells and wetlands used by Crestview Elementary School.
* A consortium of 10 to 12 companies have agreed to foot the bill for an investigation of the environmental damage at the Rocky Flats Industrial Park south of the Rocky Flats plant, Levene said.
* Several mining companies have agreed to put in treatment plants to deal with the acid drainage from mines and mills dating back to the 19th century. For example, the state and Sunnyside Gold reached agreement last year to treat mine drainage in the Upper Animas watershed near Silverton, where metals had left stretches of river devoid of fish.
In other cases, the EPA has used its emergency powers. When the water well serving a bar and three homes in Arvada was contaminated with chemicals, the agency put a filter on the well and provided bottled water to the homes. Now, Dow Chemical is studying the extent of the contamination, Levene said.
Investigators found contamination in a drinking water well in an Aspen Park day-care home in 1994 and immediately put the home on bottled water. The EPA recently installed a treatment plant to cleanse groundwater in the area.
Still other sites are on the EPA's ``back burner'' because they don't appear to pose serious threats, Levene said.
They include the Larimer County landfill, into which industrial waste was dumped in the 1960s and '70s, and Sundstrand Aviation in Adams County, where waste may have been buried or spilled during the 1970s.
Levene said one problem the EPA faces is that the agency has no procedures to take sites off the candidate list once they're on it.
For example, officials thought a small mining area near Nederland was draining mercury into the water. But the mercury tests later came into question and the site is not a top priority, Levene said.
``This is something that needs to be addressed,'' Roitman said. ``If a problem has been taken care of, we ought to remove the stigma of the site being a potential Superfund site.''
INFOBOX
25 Candidates for superfund program
1. Rocky Flats Industrial Park on Highway 72 two miles south of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility. The site has been home to a variety of chemical and recycling companies with suspected groundwater and soil contamination. A consortium of 10 to 12 companies has agreed to investigate the extent of the contamination.
2. Aspen Park in Jefferson County. Carbon tetrachloride seeped into a water well used by a day-care center in 1994. The center used bottled water until contamination disappeared. EPA built a treatment plant to cleanse the area's groundwater.

3. Former Centerline Circuits building in north Boulder. Organic chemicals got into nearby private water wells and into a wetlands area used by Crestview Elementary School. The company is voluntarily cleaning up the site.
4. Twins Inn at West 56th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard in Arvada. Toxic chemical contamination found in water wells used by Twins Inn and two homes in 1995. The residents were provided with bottled water.
5. Sundstrand Aviation facility at 2480 West 70th Avenue in Adams County - Chemical contamination was found in nearby water wells and soil. The site is on the back burner.
6. Teller County Water and Sanitation District near Woodland Park. A chemical byproduct of a now banned pesticide seeped into the district's water supply in 1994. The subdivisions served by the district were switched to Woodland Park's water system. A U.S. Forest Service facility is one of the suspected sources.
7. Larimer County Landfill - Hazardous waste may have been buried and dumped in unlined septic pools in 1960s and 1970s. Contamination was found in the groundwater. The county and nearby cities are cleaning up and monitoring the site under an agreement with the state.
8. Leetsdale Shopping Center area near Leetsdale Drive and South Holly Street in Denver. Gasoline and chemical byproducts seeped into a water well field used by the city of Glendale in 1994. The levels have since dropped off dramatically, and the site is on the back burner.
9. Hi-Tech Metal Refiners southeast of Montrose - The site has changed hands several times since the late 1980s, leaving behind tanks full of hazardous metals from the recycling business. EPA earlier this year cleaned up the tanks.
10. Stapleton Airport runways - Jet fuel, nitrates and cleaning agents have gotten into the ground water. The city of Denver is negotiating with the airlines over cleanup costs.
11. Ideal Basics cement plant in LaPorte in Larimer County - The EPA investigated cement kiln dust from the facility, but so far no major problems have been found.
Mining and milling sites
12. Cedar Resources mine near Platoro in Conejos County. The turn-of-the-century mining area is draining metals into the Conejos River and suspected of causing a fish kill in 1988. The owner is treating much of the water.
13. Wellington Oro mine south of Breckenridge. Metals from the former mine are suspected of killing fish in French Gulch. EPA, the state and Summit County officials are working with the owner to devise a cleanup plan.
14. Bonanza Mining District near Bonanza in Saguache County. Various mines from the 19th Century and mill tailings piles suspected of elevating metal levels in nearby creeks. The present mine owner is working with the EPA and state to treat the water.
15. Creede Mining District near the town of Creede in Mineral County. Elevated metal levels have killed fish in Willow Creek and led to fish kills in the Rio Grande River. The Colorado Division of Mines has built a treatment system to remove the metals from the mine drainage.
16. Rico Argentine mine and mill near Rico in Dolores County. Elevated levels of metals including arsenic and lead were found in the nearby Dolores River and Silver Creek.
17. Gold Hill tailings site on west side of Colorado Springs. Elevated metals' levels have been found in the soil of a mobile home park near the former gold and silver mill.
18. Upper Animas watershed near Silverton. Drainage from the 19th Century mining area has wiped out fish in part of the Animas River and nearby creeks. Last year, Sunnyside Gold Corp. agreed to treat the water, but EPA says there are other parts of the mining area that may pose problems.

19. Durango Lead Smelter southwest of Durango. Lead and metals from the smelter that was closed in 1935 may have contaminated soil in a near residence and mobile home park. The Department of Energy may have exacerbated the problem in the late 1980s when it cleaned up uranium tailings on the site, but left the lead waste.
20. Climax Molybdenum mine on top of Fremont Pass. EPA suspects arsenic and metals contamination in the ground water and surface water from the early 20th Century mine and mill.
21. Santa Fe Bridge area over the Arkansas River in Pueblo. Suspected high metals drainage from the sites of five turn-of-the century smelters may have caused elevated arsenic levels in the yards of nearby homes. Blood tests on residents didn't find any health problems.
22. Captain Jack Mill south of Ward in Boulder County. In 1992, Boulder County sheriffs deputies and state health workers found a worker dumping mill waste into the Left Hand Creek, turning it milky gray for almost six miles.
23. Silver Bell Mine and Mill near Ophir in San Miguel County. Turn of the century mining site that could be draining metals into the Howard Fork. Residents have reported the river turning orange during heavy rains.
24. Wolf Tongue Mill in Nederland. Initial testing showed possible mercury contamination from the old mill site, but subsequent investigations questioned the test results. It is on the back burner.
25. Golden Age mine two miles northeast of Jamestown in Boulder County. Health investigators found high metal levels in the nearby Castle Gulch which drains into James Creek.
25 candidates for superfund program By Rocky Mountain News. See Infobox for additional information.